1 September 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting With NSA Requirements Officers

1. I was called upon today by [   ], the Chief   STAT
of NSA's Requirements Officers, and one of his subordinates.
Their purpose was to touch base with me, since we apparently
will have some dealings with each other from time to time on
such matters as KIQs and Perspectives.

2. [   ] was little interested in talking about   STAT
KIQs. He had just come from a meeting with the IC Staff on
[   ] new plan for the Intelligence Community planning   STAT
system. [   ] was distraught. He very much likes the
present system which, at NSA, is computerized and is deeply
concerned that the intention to come up with priority National
Intelligence Requirements for Planning and Programing (NIRPP)
will foul them up to a fare-thee-well. I mostly listened,
but did accept an invitation to go out to NSA and observe what
they have currently in operation. [   ] opined that   STAT
NSA will simply have to disregard NIRPP, instead taking the
National SIGINT Requirements, giving them the priority indicated
in DSCID 1/2, and using the result for their accounting system.

3. [   ], who kept referring to the "real world,"   STAT
was more than agreed that KIQs were a disaster, and seemed not
to care whether there might be 12 KIQs or 72 KIQs. On the basis
of my meeting, I would not anticipate that we would get much
flack from NSA on new KIQs. Rather, it is [   ] who   STAT
will be the focal point of contention on managerial issues
because of the NIRPP.

[   ]   STAT

Executive Officer
National Intelligence

Attachment
    Priority System for Intelligence
    Requirements

NSA Review Completed.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting With NSA Requirements Officers

Original - File: KIQs
1 - D/DCI/NI
1 - RI
1 - EO/DCI/NI Chrono

ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE

NSA-SIRVES-007-76
7 April 1976

See VII/031-76

VII/037-76

or

April Correspondence

CONFIDENTIAL,

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS, SIGINT
  REQUIREMENTS VALIDATION AND EVALUATION SUBCOMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Priority System for Intelligence Requirements

   The attachment contains the views and recommendations

of NSA in regard to the fundamental considerations and

methodology for assignment of priorities to USIB SIGINT

requirements.

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LTCOL   USAF
NSA Member, SIRVES

Attach:
a/s

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1. Basic Assumptions

a. Any priority system adopted must be readily understandable to NSA/CSS managers at all levels or it will not be used or used properly in the resource decision process.

b. Resource management decisions are based on many complex and varying factors of which national requirements priorities are but one.

c. A requirements priority system merely provides an indication of the relative importance of satisfying one requirement vs another requirement of a different priority. Increasing the number of priority discriminants allows for more precise definition among the priorities of individual requirements but increases the uncertainty in the decision process of priority selection. Conversely, the smaller the number of ordinal numbers used to reflect the priorities the greater the certainty in accurate priority selection, while at the same time providing increasingly less discrimination between the importance of individual requirements. Some balance between the extremes of these two approaches must be found in developing a workable and useful requirements priority system.

d. The capability of any sensor to answer a requirement does not raise or lower the priority of that intelligence requirement for the United States but obviously it is an important consideration in determining which sensor(s) should be employed to satisfy the requirement.

e. A standard requirements priority system should be developed and used for all intelligence disciplines. No USIB-approved requirements priority system currently exists.

2. Background

It is generally agreed that the DCID 1/2, U.S. Foreign Intelligence Priorities must be the baseline of any priority system. It is the only extant authoritative

does not allow for differentiation among the numerous more detailed intelligence need ... its larger or broader basic topic categorizations. The most useful system to NSA resource managers, therefore, is one that would "shred-out" and prioritize the sub-categories of intelligence needs in each topic, for it is against these, not the broad topics, that resources must be allocated. The system proposed herein attempts to do that, and as an added advantage, somewhat suppresses the target vs target competition for resources that high priority, broad basic topics in DCID 1/2 promotes.

3. Specifics; A Two-Step Requirements Priority System:

    a. Each requirement should be equated to a basic topic in DCID 1/2. It would then receive an "initial priority" directly from the basic topic in DCID 1/2 to which it is related.

    b. The "initial priority" given to a requirement will either remain the same as the priority listed for the basic topic or be adjusted downward depending on the amount of contribution the answer to that specific require-ment would make to the basic topic as defined in DCID 1/2. The factor being weighed is the assumed successful response to the requirement, and not the assumed contribution or capability of a sensor. If the satisfaction of a given requirement would make a "key" contribution to the basic topic in DCID 1/2, the priority would remain unchanged; if it were to make a "substantial" contribution to the DCID 1/2 basic topic the "initial priority" would be dropped one notch; if it were to make only a "supplementary" contribution, the initial priority would be dropped two notches.

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    c. Individual sections of some of the requirement statements may relate to different basic topics in DCID 1/2 and as a result may receive different "initial priorities" for appropriate sections rather than the assignment of a single "initial priority" for the entire requirement.

4. Exceptions:

    DCID 1/2 recognizes that changing world conditions as well as crisis situation alters the priorities contained

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in the assignment of an "initial priority".

5.   Recommendation:

That the priority system described above be adopted by SIRVES.

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